

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 12 and 14-18 are currently pending in this application. Claims 5, 9, 11 13 and 19-23 have been withdrawn under 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to non-elected species. It is understood that the withdrawn claims will be restored if there is an allowed generic claim.

Claims 1, 14, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended. Antecedent support for the amendments is found in the original claims and throughout the specification. These amendments are clarifying in nature, and are not intended to limit or restrict the scope of the claims.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10 12, and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Lloyd, U.S. Patent No. 4,681,462. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states that, with respect to claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17, the Lloyd reference discloses a device which is adapted to be secured to a wrist of the wearer with a strap, and includes an input button to control a watch. However, upon closer examination of the reference, it is apparent that both the device and input button are located on the same strap 21. As shown, the watch and input button of the reference are part of the same component (11). In contrast, the device and input functions of this invention are not part of one integral structure and, in fact, are located on separate straps or substrates. This clarification has been made to the amended claims. Although located on separate straps, the device and input functions are in electronic communication with each other.

The Examiner also states that the strap depicted in the Lloyd reference is designed to be placed in a first (retracted) position and a second (extended) position. Applicant disagrees with this conclusion.

There is no indication that the strap of Lloyd is designed to be placed in more than one position. Nothing in the reference would lead one skilled in the art to this conclusion, and the statement in the Office Action to this effect contrary would appear to be mere speculation. The fact that the strap of Lloyd is elastic simply means that it is designed to be adjustable to fit different hand sizes, not to be moved to more than one position as suggested.

Moreover, the apparatus of Lloyd is secured to the hand and wrist using two separate straps as shown in Figures 2 and 3 of the reference (see straps 21 and 22). The input substrate of the present invention does not require this type of complex securing arrangement.

In addition, and contrary to the Office Action, strap 22 of the reference is not adapted to contain a device, but is instead part of the means for securing the device/input button to the wrist of the wearer. See col. 3, lines 32-43 of Lloyd.

Accordingly, and summarizing, there is no proper basis for maintaining the obviousness rejection made in this application.

In view of the foregoing facts and reasons, applicants believe that the pending claims are clearly patentable in view of the cited reference, and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to discuss any of the matters mentioned herein. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. TCQA-P01-001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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